

**American Farm Bureau Federation  
Young Farmers & Ranchers  
Excellence in Agriculture Award  
Rules for the 2010 AFBF Annual Meeting Competitive Event**

**Background**

The Farm Bureau Excellence in Agriculture Award Program is designed as an opportunity for Young Farmers & Ranchers to earn recognition, while actively contributing and growing through their involvement in Farm Bureau and agriculture. Participants will be judged on their involvement in agriculture, leadership ability, involvement and participation in Farm Bureau and other organizations (i.e., civic, service and community). **The ideal candidate(s) for the Excellence in Agriculture Award is an individual or couple who does not have the majority of their income subject to normal production risk.** It is recommended that the state Farm Bureaus provide, as part of the state recognition and award, an expense-paid trip to the AFBF Annual Meeting held January 2010 in Seattle, WA. Appropriate recognition will be given to all the national competitors in attendance at the AFBF Annual Meeting. The AFBF Young Farmers & Ranchers Committee and the AFBF Organization Department will coordinate the program at the national level.

Information about the Excellence in Agriculture applicant is requested on the entry form. ALL INFORMATION IS HANDLED IN STRICT CONFIDENCE AND IS DESTROYED AFTER JUDGING IS COMPLETED.

**Eligibility**

- Applicant(s) must be a Farm Bureau member or Farm Bureau member family and should be in good standing with their county Farm Bureau.
- An applicant can be either an individual or a married couple (husband and wife). If married, husband and wife may apply as individuals or as co-applicants.
- Competitors shall be Farm Bureau members between the ages of 18 and 35 years of age. Individual or spouse shall not have reached their 36th birthday by January 31st after the AFBF Annual Meeting at which the competitive event is held.
- Past and present members of the AFBF Young Farmers & Ranchers Committee or their spouses are not eligible to compete.
- Past state YF&R Excellence in Agriculture Award winners, and/or previous AFBF Excellence in Agriculture Award competitors are not eligible to compete.
- Past state Achievement Award winners, and/or previous AFBF Achievement Award competitors are not eligible to compete.
- County, State and American Farm Bureau employees are not eligible; this also includes affiliate companies.
- Only one applicant per state will be eligible to compete in the AFBF Excellence in Agriculture Award Program.
- Competitors may compete in either the Achievement Award or Excellence in Agriculture Award Program Competitive Event, but not both in the same year.
- Competitors may only compete in 1 national YF&R competitive event per year.
- Applicants must not have derived a majority of their income from an owned production agriculture enterprise for the past three years.

### **Entry Form & Application Guidelines**

- Do not use your name, name of your state, your county, or any names that may bring about the recognition or identification of your state beyond the entry form (page 5). Verbal and PowerPoint reference to your name, name of your state and county will be allowed during your PowerPoint presentation (see **Presentation Format** on page 3).
- The entry form and application must be in 10-point Times New Roman.
- Do not use abbreviations or acronyms.
- Recreating the application on a computer is not allowed. This includes no font or format changes, including bolding.
- If applying as an individual, only include information pertinent to applicant.
- Application must be properly signed with no additional pages used.
- Letter of recommendation, scrapbooks or other visual additions will be terms for disqualification.
- States have permission to reproduce the attached application form.
- Deadline for mailing entry forms for the AFBF Competitive Event is **December 15, 2009**.
- PowerPoint presentations must be turned in at the YF&R Competitor registration at AFBF annual meeting on CD format. Please use Microsoft Power Point Version 2007 for your presentations.

### **Photographs & Bio**

This year there will be no posters at the annual meeting; instead there will be a PowerPoint presentation available for members to watch on the 2010 national competitors. The presentations must be filled out using the template provided by AFBF. This template is available through your state coordinator and includes your bio and 2-3 pictures of you and your agricultural operation or involvement. *All pictures and presentations become property of AFBF.* **The power point presentation needs to be turned in on a CD with the application.**

### **Judging Criteria**

The applications will be judged by one set of judges, and the presentations by a different set of judges.

<b><u>Application</u></b>		<b><u>Approx. %</u></b>
Questions II-IV,	120 pts.	30%
Farm Bureau Experience	100 pts.	25%
Other Leadership Experience	140 pts.	35%
Additional Awards and Recognition		
Application Form: (e.g., neatness, readability, Following instructions)	40 pts.	<u>10%</u>
<b>MAXIMUM POINTS</b>	<b>400 pts.</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Presentation (Top Ten Finalists)**

Overall Presentation	100 pts.	50%
Personal Growth and Development (Accomplishments)	50 pts.	25%
Leadership Involvement (Farm Bureau & other organizations)	50 pts.	<u>25%</u>
<b>MAXIMUM POINTS</b>	<b>200 pts.</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Total Score**

Application	400 pts.	66.7%
Presentation	200 pts.	<u>33.3%</u>
<b>MAXIMUM POINTS</b>	<b>600 pts.</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Presentation Format**

The presentation will be an interactive interview in which the competitor(s) has an opportunity to share the contents of their application in narrative form. The only visual means in which to deliver the presentation is through a PowerPoint presentation. All the necessary presentation equipment will be provided for the contestant(s). The contestant(s) need to bring their presentation on a CD (to be turned in at registration). The presentation will be given to a panel of three judges. The guidelines for the presentation are as follows:

- Introduction and presentation - (maximum of 12 slides\*) 15 minutes on the issues addressed in the application as well as past and present accomplishments and future goals.  
\*moving bullet point into the slides is permitted and will not be counted as an additional slide.
- Question and answer session - 10 minutes (time card will be displayed at 10 minutes)
- Verbal and PowerPoint references to your name, state and county will be allowed during presentations.
- Dress should be business attire
- No props allowed
- No sound allowed in power point presentation

AMERICAN FARM BUREAU FEDERATION  
2010 ENTRY FORM  
YOUNG FARMERS & RANCHERS EXCELLENCE IN AGRICULTURE AWARD

The applicant should carefully read through this entry form and application before filling out any part of it. The state winner's entry form and application must be in the office of American Farm Bureau Federation, 600 Maryland Avenue, SW, Suite 1000W, Washington, DC 20024, **on or before 4:45 EST p.m. December 15, 2009.**

NOTE: This applies to you and your spouse, if married. Please indicate "Husband" (H) and "Wife" (W) when applicable.

1. Applicant(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
(As it will be used in the program & recognition)

Phonetic Pronunciation: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Address: \_\_\_\_\_

3. City & State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

4. Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

5. Date of Birth: H \_\_\_\_\_ W \_\_\_\_\_ Age: H \_\_\_\_\_ W \_\_\_\_\_

6. Education/Degree: H \_\_\_\_\_ W \_\_\_\_\_

Short courses or other specialized study: \_\_\_\_\_

7. Number of children: \_\_\_\_\_ Age(s): \_\_\_\_\_

8. Please provide one of the following for verification purposes:

\_\_\_\_\_ copy of 1099 or W-2 form

\_\_\_\_\_ A letter of recommendation for your employer or company on letterhead that includes length of employment and a brief description of your job responsibilities.

I (we) hereby certify the information on this entry form and attached application to be accurate and true statements, made to the best of our ability. **AFBF DOES NOT ACCEPT LIABILITY FOR APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED INCORRECTLY BY A STATE FARM BUREAU OFFICE.** AFBF reserves the right to use your photos and/or any video footage for use in promoting Farm Bureau. The photos and/or video footage of undersigned contestant may also be available to sponsors of Farm Bureau events. I have not derived a majority of my income from an owed production agricultural enterprise in any of the past three years.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Applicant(s)

I hereby certify that the above named applicant is the state winner in our Young Farmers & Ranchers Excellence in Agriculture Competitive Event and is eligible to be entered and considered for the American Farm Bureau Federation's Farm Bureau Young Farmers & Ranchers Excellence in Agriculture Award.

\_\_\_\_\_  
State President/Secretary

Date \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

2010 APPLICATION  
YOUNG FARMERS & RANCHERS EXCELLENCE IN AGRICULTURE AWARD

I. Personal Background

Married       Single       Children \_\_\_\_\_

Education Level \_\_\_\_\_

II. A. How is your occupation involved in agriculture/agribusiness?

B. Please explain your personal involvement in production agriculture: (daily, seasonal)

III. What opportunities exist for you to have a positive impact on agriculture?

IV. List and explain three important issues that agriculture needs to address in the next 5 years.

V. Farm Bureau Experience

NOTE: This applies to you and your spouse, if married. Please indicate "Husband" (H) and "Wife" (W) when applicable.

List leadership roles you and your spouse have fulfilled in Farm Bureau indicating service on committees, boards or as officers.

COUNTY FARM BUREAU YEARS

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STATE/AMERICAN FARM BUREAU YEARS

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VI. Leadership Experience

- A. Other agricultural leadership positions held by you and your spouse such as Farm Credit, Soil Conservation, REC, FSA or other farm cooperatives.

ORGANIZATION

LEADERSHIP ROLE

<u>ORGANIZATION</u>	<u>LEADERSHIP ROLE</u>

- B. Community and Service Programs participated in by you and your spouse and leadership given. (Civic and service clubs, church, school, volunteer leadership, etc.)

ORGANIZATION

LEADERSHIP ROLE

<u>ORGANIZATION</u>	<u>LEADERSHIP ROLE</u>

VI. Leadership Experience (continued)

C. List significant offices held or awards achieved while participating in youth organizations.

ORGANIZATION

LEADERSHIP ROLE

<u>ORGANIZATION</u>	<u>LEADERSHIP ROLE</u>

D. What additional award(s) and recognition have you received in the past?

E. What are your leadership goals for the next five years?